TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1992 -- Motor vehicle and equipment loadings in the week ended February 29 were up 21.9 percent over the same week of last year, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. This marks the fifth straight week in which this commodity has posted increases higher than that of any other rail-carried commodity, averaging a weekly increase of 24 percent over 1991. The railroads reporting account for about 94 percent of all rail carloads and 97 percent of rail intermodal loadings.

Total carloadings originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 29 totaled 327,939, up 1.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1991 and up 1.2 percent from the preceding week.

Carloadings originated were up 0.5 percent in the East and up 1.9 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

Cumulative carloadings for the first nine weeks of 1992 totaled 2,839,673, up 1.7 percent from the comparable period in 1991.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- not included in the carloadings -- totaled 124,806 trailers and containers for the week ended February 29, up 3.2 percent from 1991.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first nine weeks of 1992 was 1,079,129 trailers and containers, 4.1 percent above the 1991 comparable total.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended February 29 totaled 21.0 billion, up 4.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1991. Cumulative volume for the first nine weeks of 1992 was an estimated 182.8 billion ton-miles, up 4.6 percent from the comparable period of last year.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
		COMPARISON WITH			
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 1992	SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	29,845	28,634	4.2 %	28,317	5.4 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,738	1,583	9.8	1,517	14.6
Metallic Ores	14,303	14,491	-1.3	14,441	-1.0
Coal	123,534	130,478	-5.3	127,734	-3.3
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	10,385	10,401	-0.2	10,740	-3.3
Nonmetallic Minerals	7,830	7,825	0.1	8,424	-7.1
Grain Mill Products	10,557	10,078	4.8	10,227	3.2
Food & Kindred Products	9,462	9,236	2.4	9,009	5.0
Primary Forest Products	9,122	9,021	1.1	9,184	-0.7
Lumber & Wood Products	6,874	5,904	16.4	6,073	13.2
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	11,211	11,175	0.3	10,350	8.3
Chemicals	29,380	28,664	2.5	28,747	2.2
Petroleum Products	4,867	4,046	20.3	4,481	8.6
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	8,317	8,698	-4.4	8,099	2.7
Coke	5,408	5,033	7.5	5,339	1.3
Metals & Products	11,078	10,200	8.6	10,174	8.9
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	18,071	14,825	21.9	17,625	2.5
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,497	8,341	1.9	8,153	4.2
All Other Carloads	7,460	5,532	34.9	5,515	35.3
Total	327,939	324,165	1.2 %	324,149	1.2 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
	WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 1992			CUMULATIVE: 9 WEEKS ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 1992		
TRAFFIC	1992	1991	CHANGE	1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	327,939	324,165	1.2 %	2,839,673	2,792,757	1.7 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	62,795	62,636	0.3	522,428	536,200	-2.6
Containers	62,011	58,311	6.3	556,701	500,646	11.2
Total	124,806	120,947	3.2	1,079,129	1,036,846	4.1
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	21.0	20.2	4.0 %	182.8	174.8	4.6 %

NOTE: Carloadings are estimated for: Week 9, 1992 - PLE.